The Sun.

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1885.

THE SUN *to-day consists of twelve pages. Our friends should see that their newsman furnishes them with the entire paper.*

The regular circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending May 9, 1885, was:*

Sunday	120,791	Thursday	101,663
Monday	102,038	Friday	101,408
Tuesday	101,751	Saturday	102,261
Wednesday	102,435	Weekly	44,600
Total for the week			776,967

Straws.

The attempt of the British Conservatives to censure the Government on Monday next for its conduct of the Afghan affair may be premature. But a week or two will probably determine whether Mr. GLADSTONE's concessions have accomplished anything beyond encouraging the Czar to renewed aggressions. There are fresh signs every day that the war party in Russia has acquired a momentum that can hardly be arrested now.

For instance, while Lord GRANVILLE insists upon a formal pledge that Russia shall refrain from any movement against Herat, as the condition of England's acquiescence in the signal extension southward of the Turcoman frontier, the St. Petersburg Government is averse to making such a promise. M. DE GIERS, we are told, protests with a fine assumption of unimpeached integrity that England ought to be content with a mere expression of Russia's present intention on the subject. In the light of past experience, even Mr. GLADSTONE would not venture to defend such an illusory *quid pro quo* in Parliament.

Then again, the *Svett*, the organ of the army, avows, we learn, dissatisfaction with the proposed settlement of the frontier dispute and advocates a summary partition of Afghanistan between Russia and Great Britain. When we bear in mind that this, like every other Russian newspaper, is subject to the most rigorous censorship, and that its every utterance has been officially approved beforehand, we can feel the significance of such a declaration. The *Svett* means, of course, that if, after all her preparation for an imposing display of military force, Russia is to content herself at this late hour with the LESSAR boundary, there has been altogether too much cry for too little wool.

Meanwhile we have a candid comment from the Moscow *Gazette* on the hoodwinking expedient to which Mr. GLADSTONE gives the specious name of arbitration. "It was only possible," observes the *Gazette* dryly, "to permit the correctness of our action to be certified by a third party. Such a course as this is not arbitration in any proper sense, but simply a respectable means of terminating the incident." Just so. THE SUN made the same obvious remark a week ago.

The Broadway Railroad.

The General Term of the Supreme Court has conditionally confirmed the report of Commissioners in favor of the construction of a surface railway in Broadway, from the Battery up.

It is obvious that better facilities for travel through that great central thoroughfare are much needed. Especially between the City Hall Park and Union square, business and property on Broadway have of late years suffered perceptibly because of the withdrawal of a large part of the stream of passenger travel, which seeks the parallel avenues along which the elevated railroads and the horse cars run.

Experience shows that where the transportation facilities are best, ordinary trade, and more particularly retail trade, prospers most; and it is evident enough why it should be so. As Judge BRADY remarked in his opinion, there are few places to rent in Sixth avenue, but there are many idle in Broadway. In the one are the elevated railroads and horse cars to carry the customers, and in the other omnibuses and cabs furnish the only means of transportation.

Therefore the opposition to a Broadway railroad, which was formerly so strong among the merchants and property owners along the street—the late Mr. A. T. STEWART, for instance—has been changed to eager desire for better facilities for travel. While other avenues have gained, Broadway has fallen back, although as the central thoroughfare of the town it has incomparable advantages as a line of communication between the upper and lower city.

But a street railway, a slow horse railway, will do little good, and would be a great nuisance, especially between the City Hall and the Battery, where the vehicles are already often blocked during the busy hours of the day. Except for cross-town travel, and as feeders for longitudinal lines, we ought to have no more horse railroads. Neither is it likely that the number of elevated railroads will be increased, though the capacity of those we have is altogether insufficient to meet the growing demand for fast and cheap transportation. They are unsightly structures at best, and do not seem to be designed for permanence.

What Broadway needs, and what the city needs, is an underground railroad, or a railroad below the surface of the street, which could use powerful locomotives capable of drawing long express and way trains at the hours in the morning and evening when the travel is greatest, and could afford accommodations utterly impossible to the elevated roads. A surface railway might be well enough along a part of Broadway below Union square, but its slow transportation would give little relief, and its benefit to business and property in the street would be comparatively slight.

The best project yet proposed is the Arcade Railway, in which the discomforts and disadvantages of the underground railways of London would be overcome and altogether obviated. Until we get some such method of rapid transit through the centre of the island, the imperative requirements of New York will be left unsupplied, and the progress of the city will be retarded.

The Situation in France.

Although attention is still fixed on the somewhat improved but by no means settled relations of Russia and Great Britain, we should not wholly overlook the position of parties and the course of events in France, which is fast approaching the sharp test of a general election. In what way are the prospects of Republicanism in general, and of the Moderate or Opportunist section in particular, likely to be affected by the overthrow of M. FERRY and the accession of the BRISSON Cabinet?

However efficient M. BRISSON may have been as the chief presiding officer of the Chamber of Deputies, his fitness for the task of government has yet to be determined. In England, where parliamentary aptitudes and functions have been specialized, no one would dream of transforming the Speaker of the House of Commons into a Prime Minister. It was not, indeed, the post of Premier, but that of President of the republic, at which M. BRISSON, like GAMBETTA, had been aiming, and, by agreeing to take the active office, he has risked and probably lost his chance of obtaining the well-paid sinecure. But when, after FERRY's downfall, a week had been wasted in futile endeavors to form a Government from elements essentially unfusible, M. BRISSON, who had once refused, was again invoked, and reluctantly consented to exhaust, in fashioning a stopgap Cabinet, the personal influence built up in the post of President of the Chamber, and by means of which he hoped to succeed M. GRÉVY in the Presidency of the republic. It can only have been by genuinely patriotic motives that the new Premier was led to take office at this time, when M. FERRY still retains strength enough to plague his enemies, and when, the secret service funds allotted to the several Ministries for the current year having been used up, the Government will find its hands tied in the coming contest at the polls.

The successor of FERRY, like the successor of GAMBETTA, finds not only the secret service money gone, but almost every channel of official patronage temporarily blocked; and the Cabinet which followed the *Grand Ministère* did not have to meet, as M. BRISSON will, the strain of a general election. It has now, indeed, become quite doubtful whether, with its means of influence so materially impaired, the Government has anything to gain by substituting the *scrutin de liste*, or method of election by departmental tickets, for the *scrutin d'arrondissement*, or single district system. The bill embodying the change has, to be sure, been passed by the Chamber of Deputies, but it still awaits the sanction of the Senate, and may be killed in that body by the friends of M. FERRY, even should the present Ministry decide to press it. The obvious danger of resorting to the *scrutin de liste*, or what we should call a State ticket, lies in the fact that the Government would in each department be putting all its eggs in one basket. No doubt the Ministry could better afford to face a risk of this sort than its opponents could, provided it possessed the usual instruments of administrative pressure. But just now this is not the case, and the Radicals, whose most conspicuous figure is CLÉMENCEAU, are counting on great gains in the impending contest. Whether the reactionists, on their part, can better their position, will depend on the success of the attempts, now for the hundredth time renewed, to bring about a coalition for parliamentary elections between monarchists and the fast-decaying Bonapartist faction.

The tendency toward reaction has unquestionably been checked, and the cause of Republicanism in general been materially helped, by the cessation of hostilities in Tonquin, and of the severe drain which the war caused upon the treasury. The treaty with Annam, made some eighteen months ago, has been formally ratified by the Chamber of Deputies, and peace between France and China has not only been signed, but is likely to be undisturbed by a second Langson incident so long as Gen. CAMPENON remains Minister of War. Moreover, while the BRISSON Cabinet has had the good sense to evacuate Formosa and abjure the scheme of extorting a pecuniary indemnity from China, it has at the same time managed to buy very cheaply a reputation for dignity and firmness in the matter of the *Bosphore Egyptien*. Notwithstanding Lord GRANVILLE's admission that England was responsible for the suppression of that newspaper, M. DE FREYCINET demanded and obtained an apology and reparation. The gravity of this incident was overestimated in some quarters. It could not indicate a purpose on the part of France to side with Russia in the event of war, for the Government had just acknowledged in the plainest way the nation's inability to sustain the cost of a relatively trivial contest in Tonquin. No French statesman will commit the folly of embroiling his country in a European quarrel so long as BISMARCK's ultimate intentions remain inscrutable. The peremptory tone assumed by M. DE FREYCINET simply meant that he had caught England in a tight place, and was resolved to make the most of it, having taken measures to assure himself that the German Chancellor would survey the operation with cynical approval.

Exploration in North America.

The present year promises to be notable for the geographical information obtained with regard to those parts of North America that are still but little known. The results attained by several exploring parties now at work in the northern part of this continent will undoubtedly be known this fall, and some interesting questions will be settled.

Although Lake Mistassini may not rival Lake Superior in its dimensions, there is hardly a doubt that the explorers who are surveying it will find this body of water to be the greatest of Canada's lakes. Lying only 300 miles north of Quebec, and partially explored by the Canadian surveys of 1866 and 1871, we know little more about the extent of Lake Mistassini than is recorded in the journal of Father ALBANEL, who wrote two centuries ago that it would take twenty days to circumnavigate it. The surveyors of 1871 traced its southern coast for about seventy miles, and found it still stretching indefinitely before them. Surveyor BIGNELL says that last year he followed the coast for 120 miles, and the Indians told him he had not yet reached the main body of the lake. If he was correctly informed, the lake is at least about as long as Lake Ontario. The exploring party which his father commands is expected to return home next fall with the answer to this interesting geographical problem. Meanwhile young Mr. BIGNELL will pilot a number of excursionists to the great lake this summer, travelling by steamer up the Saguenay River, then by wagons to Lake St. John, and thence in bark canoes by a chain of little lakes and rivers to Mistassini.

Within a few weeks the Arctic steamer Alert will sail from Canada to visit the seven stations established last summer in Hudson Bay and Strait, to study the nature and movements of the ice there, and the prospect of making the bay an outlet for the products of Manitoba. The facts now known favor the belief that for about four months a year steamships can traverse the bay and strait with little or no danger. The unlucky experience of the Hudson Bay Company's ship last fall is no proof that these waters cannot be safely navigated at certain seasons, for the ship's journey home was defeated by the ice in the southern extension of Hudson Bay known as James Bay, which, being shallow and narrow, always freezes over in winter, while the main body of water is open at all seasons. The information collected by Lieut. GORDON's observers will, if favorable, lead to the building of a railroad between Winnipeg and Fort Churchill on Hudson Bay, an undertaking which, it has been found, will not involve any large engineering difficulties. The observations in Hudson Bay will very likely be continued another year before anything is done to develop the proposed route from Manitoba to Europe.

The newspapers which announced last week that Lieut. STONEY had sailed from San Francisco with an expedition to continue his exploration of "the newly discovered Putnam River in Alaska" reiterated a blunder that, after two years' currency, really ought to give way to the facts. It detracts nothing from the merit of Lieut. STONEY's investigations of the Kowak River to say that he did not discover it, and that he could not properly rename the large river which for nearly thirty years has been indicated on the maps of PETERMANN and BLACK by its native name, and which for a longer time has been repeatedly referred to in Arctic records as the Kowak River. A part of BEECHEY's expedition entered the river in 1829, but to STONEY belongs the credit of pushing beyond its delta two years ago, and discovering the importance of its main stream, which he and Lieut. CANTWELL last year surveyed for nearly 400 miles from its mouth. It is believed that STONEY will be able this season to complete his survey of the river, which 250 miles from its mouth, is from a quarter to half a mile in width, and abounds with the finest fish upon which the Innuit settlements along its banks subsist.

While STONEY is at work in northern Alaska Gen. MILES will try to carry out a most interesting scheme of exploration in the southern part of the Territory. A great unexplored region stretches between the head of Cook's Inlet and the Tananah River, which, from the Indian reports, is believed to be the largest of the Yukon's tributaries. This region is said to be covered in summer with luxuriant herbage, and to possess large resources in minerals and timber. Gen. MILES's two parties will move in parallel lines, the one from the head of Cook's Inlet and the other up the Copper River to the east, both striking for the Tananah watershed and mapping between them a wide stretch of country. One of these parties will try to descend the Tananah to the Yukon River. If they succeed in filling with geographical details a large part of the great white space now so conspicuous on the maps of southern Alaska, their achievement will be the most notable of American explorations in our great northern Territory.

The Peekskill Camp.

The assignments of National Guard regiments for this year's encampment at Peekskill have at length been made. The Twenty-third is to open the season on the 13th of June, and will be followed successively by the Seventh, Ninth, Seventy-first, Thirteenth, Forty-seventh, and Twenty-second. As in former years, the smaller regiments are to be supplemented by several of the separate companies, occupying a portion of the ground at the same time. The general result will be a season of seven successive weeks, divided among seven regiments, either eight or nine separate companies, and Companies A and B of the Tenth Battalion.

With the present summer the State camp enters on a new phase of existence as a permanent institution. Hitherto it has been an experiment, and its site, held by lease only, was liable to be taken away. The present Legislature wisely made provision for the purchase of the grounds and for fitting them up as State property. The first change noticeable in the military schedule which marks the new era is that the season is prolonged from six weeks to seven. This additional use of the camp is certainly not excessive, since the city regiments, at least, are eager for open-air life by the middle of June, while the warm weather is still at its height on the 1st of August. Unless the burden were too great upon those officials whoo need to be present more or less during the entire season, there is apparently no reason why the camp should not be in operation through even eight or nine weeks every summer. It is also clearly possible, by enlarging the accommodations, to allow the simultaneous encampment of two or more regiments. This would at once create a brigade encampment, and introduce the opportunity for brigade drill. At the same time, the increase both in the number of organizations sent simultaneously to camp and in the length of the season would allow each regiment and separate company to have a tour of duty there every other year instead of once in three years, as now.

It may well be doubted, however, whether a brigade encampment would be a step of real progress. Such a camp is always attractive at first glance, but its promises, so far as genuine instruction is concerned, are often deceptive. This fact will be made clear by observing the summer encampments of some of the States that assemble all their militia for annual muster and inspection at the same time and in the same camp. If a State maintains only two or three regiments, or their equivalent in small battalions, some efficiency in drill and discipline may be secured at their annual gathering. But where there are half a dozen or a dozen regiments, a constant round of ceremonies and official visits in one part or another of the camp absorbs attention, and often whole days are wasted on mere spectacular performances, or in preparing for them and getting over their effects. It may well be questioned, also, whether brigade drill is relatively so important as it is often imagined to be. To the great body of the rank and file it affords no instruction whatever above battalion drill. The brigade commander and his staff and the Colonels of the regiments may derive some useful practice from it, but it is hardly worth while to make serious sacrifices for this purpose, since in the ordinary uses of State militia brigade evolutions are almost never called for in actual campaigning. When a great war comes there is ample opportunity for preliminary practice in such evolutions. Above all, so far as New York is concerned, the fact that she has her First and Second divisions of militia concentrated respectively in her two largest cities, and very near each other, suggests that both brigade and division evolutions, if desirable, can be had without resort to Peekskill.

The wise course for the present, then, seems to be to continue to carry on the camp in a conservative way, according to the plan hitherto pursued of making it as thorough a school of practical instruction for all, both officers and men, as a week's tour of duty will permit. Possibly it might be found that requiring seven days of camp life every other year, instead of once in three years, would be, if not irksome, at least a burden on the ordinary employments and vacations of some members of the National Guard. However that may be, it is certain that those who are to go to Peekskill again this summer are, as a general rule, in high spirits over the prospect. While this eagerness subsists, coupled with a sincere purpose to make improvement in soldiership there, it is tolerably sure that the State camp is doing good service.

Harrigan and Hart.

The dissolution of the firm of HARRIGAN and HART is a pity. They seemed to be peculiarly adapted to each other, and to the peculiar plays they have produced. Born and bred in the lower wards of the city, they have filled the field of local drama so completely as to drive out all competition. Their impersonations have been studies from New York life, backed by a natural love of mimicry. Everybody recognized their merits as actors, because the originals of their delineations are seen in this city every day.

It was EDWARD HARRIGAN, however, who first engrafted the results of his studies of human nature on local comedy, and made the success of the firm. It had been reaping an average share of public favor in variety performances when the farce of "The Mulligan Guards" was presented. DAVID BRAHAM's sprightly song spread the fame of the company over the country, and the memorable career of this combination was begun.

The Mulligan Guard series developed the merits of Mrs. YEAMANS, JOHN WILD, BRADLEY, FISHER, GREY, and the galaxy of minor comedians who have shed lustre on the company. BRAHAM made the comedies sparkle with songs like "The Pitcher of Beer," "Babies On Our Block," "Dad's Dinner Pail," and "The Little Widow Dunn," all of which touched the marrow of city life and pleased everybody. The songs were suited to the plays, the plays were suited to the actors, and songs, plays, and actors were suited to the people.

Mr. HART has withdrawn, but the creative talent remains; and while HARRIGAN and BRAHAM retain their health the series of delightful local comedies will probably continue to be popular and profitable.

It is hard to say which of the two comedians is the better actor. Neither seems to have trespassed upon the other's domain. While HART probably excels in female characters of either Celtic or Ethiopian types, HARRIGAN is equally at home as an Irish-American politician, an Italian chestnut vender, or an old negro burdened with the cares of domestic life. Both are natural mimics, and both have a keen sense of humor. HARRIGAN probably has the more individuality, and HART is the more grotesque and mirth-provoking. As an English cockney he stands unrivalled. Yet at a social gathering HARRIGAN tells English stories in a manner so true to nature that his friends wonder that he has never impersonated a Britisher on the stage. His scope as an actor is broader than that of HART. He has a depth of pathos which HART, with all his dramatic power, has never equalled. No one who has seen *Old Lavender* can forget it. The sorrows of the seedy old man touch the heart and excite tears.

Of the two, HART undoubtedly has the best voice and the clearest enunciation. His make-up is perfect, and at times his identity is almost completely concealed. Both have clear conceptions of character, but HARRIGAN's impersonations have a dramatic finish which those of his former colleague can hardly claim. This seems to be born of both the author and the actor. HART is more of a low comedian, and rarely trenches on the sympathies of his audience. HARRIGAN delights in arousing the finer chords of human nature. HART excites the risibilities rather than the sensibilities of his audience.

The two are young men, however, and the broad world with all its possibilities is still before them.

The Use of Gettysburg.

The Republican organs with far-shooting imaginations, are bothering themselves a good deal about Mr. CLEVELAND's visit to Gettysburg. Listen, for instance, to the prattle of a correspondent of the *Commercial Gazette*:

"It is no wonder that old Republicans looked at each other upon the bloody field of Gettysburg while CLEVELAND sat stolidly, ignoring all talk and description, and said to each other, 'What was this battle fought for?'"

This battle was fought, it would seem, for the purpose of keeping Republicans in office, and it is no wonder if old Republican Postmasters are beginning to think that it was a failure. But from a Republican point of view the whole system of government is a failure now—except the Senate.

Mayor GRACE has not done the very best thing possible in appointing Mr. MICHAEL COLEMAN Commissioner of Taxes and Assessments to succeed Mr. THOMAS B. ASTEN, but still he has done well. Mr. ASTEN deserved to be retained in office, and we are sorry that he has been allowed to go out. But since he has gone we can say that Mr. COLEMAN has earned his promotion by long and faithful service as Deputy Commissioner. Mr. GEORGE H. ANDREWS, for so many years a Tax Commissioner, writes to us as follows:

"I have just learned that the Mayor has appointed Mr. MICHAEL COLEMAN Tax Commissioner. [I had thought, as you did, that Mr. ASTEN was likely to be reappointed; but if that could not be, then the appointment of Mr. COLEMAN was a good thing for the Mayor to do. I was one of the Board that made him Deputy Commissioner fifteen years ago, and the city never had a more capable and faithful official. His knowledge of values and his judicial fairness will render his appointment acceptable to taxpayers."

We trust that Mr. COLEMAN may prove the right man in the right place.

It appears that there are different views of the recent special election for a State Senator in Illinois. The one that the Democrats were surprised and ambuscaded is denied by a number of Illinois Democrats, who say positively that but for the dissatisfaction in the ranks of the party, the Democratic candidate would have been elected, notwithstanding all the Republican efforts. "In a district where there are four Democrats to one Republican," we are told, "it is preposterous to suppose that they could not have elected their candidate if they wanted to. The election went as it did because the Democrats had lost their interest, and didn't care a copper."

Mr. L. K. CHURCH of Queens county appears to be the great opponent in the Legislature of the bill to separate Lloyd's Neck from Queens and add it to Suffolk. Mr. CHURCH makes a mistake. There is no sufficient public reason against the measure he opposes.

Our valued contemporary, the *Lockport Journal*, nominates Gen. JOSEPH R. HAWLEY for President of Hamilton College. Gen. HAWLEY is well known as a statesman, a scholar, and a singer, and doubtless would be a useful as well as an ornamental head of the Clinton college. But he is not without hopes, and last year, at least, was not without a boom, for the Presidency of a somewhat larger institution. We fear he cannot be induced to accept any other Presidency than the one which Connecticut wanted to get for him last June; and Hamilton College and some parts of North Carolina were to coöperate in the boom. We agree with our contemporary that "the head of a popular and growing college is a place of power and trust," but we must deny emphatically its assertion that Gen. HAWLEY is "an alumni of Hamilton." JOE HAWLEY may be equal to two or to thirteen ordinary men, but he is not "an alumni of Hamilton."

SHORT tried to murder PHELAN, and inflicted many terrible wounds, but did not quite kill him. The jury found him not guilty; but if the murder had been successfully completed, they would probably have given the assassin a silver-hilted dagger and revolver as a testimonial of their approbation.

We will never know exactly how much Mr. BOYD WINCHESTER, the champion poker player of Kentucky, has been accustomed to make every year by playing poker. It is certainly more than $1,500, and, of course, there is no foreign appointment with a salary of that amount which could induce him to leave Kentucky. But $5,000 has fetched him. He will now be Minister and Consul-General in Switzerland for $5,000 every year. His poker income must be somewhere between these two figures. HENRY WATTERSON and the Star-Eyed Goddess probably know to a dollar, but the chances are that they won't tell.

THE EARTH COVERED WITH STAR DUST.

Two Russian astronomers have just made public the results of a series of investigations of the fall of meteoric matter upon the earth. Nothing could seem more absolutely clear and free from all haze or impurity than the interstellar spaces; yet the studies of these investigators show that the ether of the star depths, particularly in the neighborhood of suns, is rather to be compared with the dusty atmosphere of a hay mow than with that perfectly transparent medium that we are wont to picture to ourselves as forming the pathway of light between the stars. As the earth pursues its spiral course around the sun and with the sun onward through the universe this star dust continually settles upon it, sifting down through the atmosphere in surprising quantities. Part of it comes from meteoric bodies, many millions of which plunge into the atmosphere every day and are consumed with a sudden flash of light and heat; part is probably mere dust when it enters the atmosphere, for these meteoric bodies undoubtedly vary in size from huge bolides larger than the projectile of an 80-ton cannon and endowed with a hundred times its velocity to mere microscopic particles.

There is good reason for calling this matter star dust, for it partakes of the nature of the stars in its composition, and sometimes presents evidence that it has actually been subjected to the frightful heat and pressure that prevail in suns. Some may have come from our own sun, for masses of incandescent matter are occasionally shot from its tumbling fire-depths with a velocity which we know must carry them, like solar missiles, out among the planets and far into the celestial spaces, until perhaps they fall upon some distant star. A large part of the meteoric matter may always have belonged to the solar system, representing the remnant of the material of the original nebula which was not compounded into the sun or any of the planets, but condensed into clouds of minute particles. It is not impossible that meteoric matter may have fallen upon the earth which was shot from the gigantic volcanoes of the moon in the earlier ages of its history, when, judging from present appearances, it must have sailed a veritable spitfire through the heavens, all of its thousands of volcanoes hurling their bombs skyward in every direction.

Fortunately this meteoric dust possesses characteristics which distinguish it from dust of terrestrial origin, and so its presence has been traced all over the earth. It has been found on mountain peaks, in the cobwebs of unswept cathedral towers, in the snowfields of the Arctic regions, and even in the ooze of the ocean's bottom. The earth is slowly growing by virtue of its constant downfall. The latest investigations show that not less than 4,950 pounds of meteoric matter are added to the weight of the earth every hour. Yet this is a very slow process of growth, for at the present rate of accretion millions upon millions of years would be required to build up a respectable mountain range from the meteoric matter added to the globe. If all the star dust that falls upon the earth in the course of twenty months could be carefully swept together and heaped upon the Brooklyn Bridge, it would just about suffice to break the cables, their ultimate strength over what is required to support the superstructure being estimated at 36,000 tons. Yet this, after all, is no small amount of matter to come drifting in out of the sky.

The fall of meteoric dust is one of the most ancient phenomena with which we are acquainted. Before the rains descended or the clouds were formed, before there were any lands or oceans or rock-ribbed hills upon this globe, when it was yet itself a little blazing sun, and through all the ages of its development from a chaotic mass into a beautiful planet, the steady downfall of meteors upon it must have been going on. In those earlier ages, there is reason to think, the matter thus added to it may have been far more considerable in quantity than that which it now sweeps from the clearer heavens through which its journey lies.

Better than Getting an Office.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—One man who came for an office has succeeded so much better than he expected that his case is worth recording in THE SUN. He came from Georgia, and relates his experience thus: "Being a Democrat and not having much luck at getting ahead at home, I thought I would get an office in Washington if I could. Letting no one but my wife and a friend know what I was up to, I started. After landing here I saw just as plain as day that the water was too deep for me; besides, hundreds of others a great deal smarter at the business were ahead of me. I had not much money, and so, instead of paying much attention to the office, I began to look around for work or something to make a living while I stayed. To tell you the truth, I had not been much away from home, and never in so large a place before. Somehow I kinder felt I could make it go if only I got a chance; and after I had looked around some and clapped my eye over things I thought I saw chances, if only they were worked right. I have a fancy I have a natural gift for knowing a chance as soon as I see it. I got this idea all at once when I saw so many ways and things; so many persons selling everything and so many buying. I had about $15, and with it I concluded to start. I had looked around the market, where more money is spent in a day than in my town in a whole year. Why can't I have some of it? thought I. Well, I launched out $4 for Florida oranges and 50 cents more for a basket. That day I sold half the oranges and had my money back. How I did work, though—went everywhere, into the houses and stores, and somehow people bought willingly. Maybe it was because I was so earnest about it. The third day I had all the oranges sold, with nearly $5 profit in my pockets. Better'n office, I began to think. While I was looking around for another chance the dealer from whom I had bought offered me two other boxes, the last of a lot, for $5.50; nice oranges, too. I knew at once what I could do with them. The next morning I sold them for $4 a box, $2.50 profit without breaking bulk. I had never before made money so fast in all my life. I kept on for two weeks, and I couldn't be hired to take the office I was after. I began to think how well I could fix myself right here in Washington, with my little wife and baby and the boy, who by rights ought to be going to school. You don't want to hear it all. It's but two months and two days since I came, and I have got $80 and everything paid up. What's better, there are a couple of dealers in the market who say they will back me for anything in reason I want to do. I'm thinking I'll keep on the line I've been going for the present. I see so many chances that sometimes I don't know which to take. I wonder anybody that can work wants an office here. Some of the Georgia fellows hanging around here have come to me for money, but I tell 'em to go to work, for there is a heap more money in it than in any office I know of."

Morrison and Logan.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—The loss of a Senatorial district in Illinois which usually gives twelve or fifteen hundred Democratic majority, is a hard blow to the ambitious aspirations of Col. W. R. Morrison for the Senatorship, and to his assumed position as a leader of the party.

The Democrats and the Republicans were equally divided in the Legislature when this vacancy in the Senate occurred by the death of Mr. Shaw. Under that condition of things, ordinary prudence would have suggested prompt and effective organization to put the election of his successor beyond any reasonable doubt.

Col. Morrison was on the spot when this change in the situation took place, and he was directing the Senatorial campaign on his own behalf, as the nominee and the caucus representative of the Democracy. It was his duty in that position to have seen that no ordinary accident interfered with the success of the party.

He left Springfield and came to Washington attended by the Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, recently appointed an Indian Inspector, and by other politicians who were anxious to serve the country at home or abroad. Weeks were squandered in seeking patronage, when this news suddenly struck Col. Morrison and his followers like a shock of dynamite. Now, when the mischief is irreparable, they have hurried back to the scene of many unprofitable experiments.

Col. Morrison abandoned his seat in the House of Representatives during nearly the whole of the late session to seek the Senatorship, which at no point of time was ever within his reach. He knew perfectly well from the start that a few Democrats would not vote for him. They were sufficient to make his defeat certain. Instead of retiring from the contest, and allowing some other Democrat to be elected—as might easily have been done two months ago—he persisted in holding on to the nomination, hoping to coerce these opponents into final submission.

Gen. Logan occupies a similar position on the Republican side. He was the caucus candidate, but stood confronted with a defection that prevented his election. Whether the change of circumstances will now relieve him from this well-known hostility remains to be seen. If he is returned to the Senate, either by election or by Gubernatorial appointment, Gen. Logan will be the fiercest opponent of the President's nominations. And the responsibility for his return to that body, should it take place, may be properly charged to Col. Morrison's selfish ambition.

DARKNESS INSTEAD OF LIGHT.

A Missouri College Professor Tries to Reconstruct the English Language.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: A criticism of yours, made early in the present year, on the phrase "in your midst," used by Mr. G. A. Sala in the address to the Lotos Club, has drifted out West, and has reached me in the local press. You say:

"'In the midst of them' is good English; 'in their midst' is vicious and bad English. The one is an old, elegant, and honored formula of the language; the other, a vulgar, illogical, objectionable innovation."

You do not define what is good English and what is bad English, and we are left to conclude that such definitions are a part of your esoteric discipline, which is not for use when you (as you declare) "instruct the public who honor" you "with their confidence, in the deeper philosophy of the noble old English speech." If the above is a fair example of your "instruction," I am afraid you are liable to the charge of ipse dixitism, or of following too closely some untrustworthy authority. To determine what is good English, according to the canons of age and usage, does not lie in the power of conjecture, but in the results of endless hard work in the domain of the historical development of the English language. Our language is Germanic in grammatical structure, and it has largely retained the genitive case before the noun limited, though not to the extent that prevails in the Scandinavian branch of the great Teutonic family. "In our midst" is native and Germanic; "in the midst of us" is foreign and Gallic. "In our midst" occurs twice in Goethe's tragedy of "Egmont," in the fifth act.

"Und er in unsrer Mitte kehrt zurück" (and he returns to our midst), and again, "In eurer Mitte will ich gehen" (and I will go into your midst). These quotations are examples of what Latin and Greek grammarians call the *constructio prægnans*, with the dative case. Schiller, in the tragedy of "Maria Stuart," first act, uses the accusative:

"Wenn der Spaher Burleigh
Nicht jetzt schon Kundschaft hat von euch, nicht schon
In eure Mitte den Verrather mischte."

(If Burleigh, the spy, has not already been informed in regard to you, and contrived to push the traitor into your midst.) I will quote from Bourdaloue, the great French pulpit orator, to show an example of the foreign origin of the phrase "in the midst of them:"

"Les Juifs avaient au milieu d'eux le Messie, et ils ne le connaissaient pas."—Mys. Epiphat, Tome 1., p. 117, from Littre. (The Jews had in the midst of them the Messiah, and they knew him not.)

But let us come to our own language. "In their midst" (on heora midlen) is the only way possible to make the phrase in Anglo-Saxon. A very little knowledge of Anglo-Saxon is all that is required to know this. In the Anglo-Saxon gospels the phrase frequently occurs. I quote from Matthew xviii., 2. "And the clypode se Hælend senne lytling and gesette on heora midlen." (And then the Saviour called a little one and set [him] in their midst.)

In the fourteenth century the phrase "in their midst" (in her middis) was used by Wycliffe in his "Apology for Lollard Doctrines." You will find it on page 12, edition of Dr. J. H. Todd. It is hardly necessary to say that the Anglo-Saxon form for the pronoun *their*, in the genitive plural, was *heora* or *hire*, and that the middle English form was *her*. The phrase has, therefore, been in regular and eminent usage for more than a thousand years! This is the "innovation" which, by the prejudice of ignorance, we are invited to condemn. Dictionary makers who take their information from the precipitate sciolism of Mr. Richard Grant White's works easily expose themselves to the contempt of beardless sophomores. Worcester's Dictionary speaks of "in our midst" as a "recent introduction," and Webster's latest edition makes the foolishly absurd declaration that these phrases are "contrary to the genius of the English language." Caleb Cushing might have probably added some thousands to the 5,000 errors which he is said to have found in Webster's Dictionary. The ignorance of the English language which could have indited the note to the word *midst* (which, by the way, is not "superlative" of "middest") is lamentably profound.

When the Bible was first translated into English we were still in the period of French literary domination, and the French syntax often alternated with the Anglo-Saxon syntax. In I. Chron. vii., 9, we read of "their genealogies" but in verse 40 we read the "genealogy of them" (*leur* equals *illorum*). In ch. xxv., verse 7, we have "the number of them," but in xxvii., 1 we have "their number." So at present we may say "in their behalf" or "on behalf of them" (*on* being old English for *in*). These expressions show how far "in our midst" for "in the midst of us" is contrary to the genius of the English language. It is true, "in the midst of us" is the Biblical formula in closely following the Hebrew (*b'thokenu*), and the Greek (ἐν μέσῳ ἡμῶν), but such a formula from its Biblical usage now belongs to the more elevated, solemn, literary style, and, like most borrowed forms, has never been sufficiently naturalized in colloquial speech to feel that it is not an alien.

J. S. BLACKWELL, Ph. D.,
Professor of Modern Languages, University of Mo.
COLUMBIA, Mo., April 25.

We are sorry to say that, while Dr. Blackwell displays a good deal of not very profound learning about German, Anglo-Saxon, and French, he displays but little learning and less common sense about English.

While grammatical and philological suggestions may be useful to confirm authority and to justify and explain established and admitted locutions, they are worthless and useless when adduced to promote innovation or to defend ignorant vulgarity. To this last class the phrase advocated by our correspondent seems clearly to belong.

The usage of competent and substantial scholars constitutes authority in English. Such authority is found in writers of the highest repute, American and English writers, whom the common consent of learned and refined society stamps as the best. It is found in Oxford University and in the canons of correct style which it teaches. It is found at Harvard, and in a less degree at Yale and Princeton. It is illustrated in the usage of the House of Commons, where impure English is sure to be hooted at; but not in that of the House of Representatives. And, finally, we are obliged to tell Dr. Blackwell, it is authority which decides in such a case as that in question. His Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon genitives are not worth a rush against it. His citation from Wycliffe is equally unavailing; but it is an instructive fact that he has to go back five hundred years, to a period before the English language was evoluted, to find the phrase he loves in any author whose name is worthy of respect.

He cannot find "in their midst" in King James's Bible. He cannot find it in a single authoritative writer from Shakespeare down. There is not to-day in the whole English writing and English speaking world one unquestionable master of English who will use or justify this phrase. Dr. Channing and Cardinal Newman—two of the supreme artists of this great speech—alike shun and repudiate and disuse it; and all the mousing philologers and cranky grammarians in Missouri cannot make good or tolerable that which the genius of the language has rejected and cast into outer darkness.

Providing for Their Own Households.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Democratic Senators and Representatives cannot be accused of neglecting their households. The telegraph make daily reports of the success achieved by them in providing places for sons, brothers, nephews, and other kindred. Senator Blackburn's brother was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue in the Ashland district on Wednesday. A son of Senator Vest was put in the consular service. So was a son of Senator Pugh. Senator Butler, who urged the appointment of Morgan as Consul to Melbourne, has a son in the consulate at Liverpool and a brother Librarian to the House of Representatives.

Republicans and Prohibitionists.

From the Philadelphia Record.

In their solicitude over the imminent rupture of the Democratic party the Republicans are likely to overlook their own impending circus with the Prohibitionists. The temperance men are everywhere organizing for active work in the State elections this fall, and are adopting the sound policy of independent nominations—the only policy for a party which pretends to incarnate a vital principle. In New York the Prohibitionists are notably zealous, and have a very heavy account to settle with the Republicans, who have reviled them as the authors of Blaine's defeat, and are punishing them by passing an excise bill framed by the liquor dealers, and by voting for license at the spring elections. Men who have withstood the pressure of last year's campaign will only be confirmed in their opposition by such tactics, and as the Presidency is not nominally at stake, they will be reenforced by voters who could not bring their minds to bolting the ticket last year. The prospect is not a promising one for the Republicans of the Empire State, and nobody will feel very sorry for them.

A Rich Fishing Club.

From the Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Gen. Arthur has accepted the invitation of ex-Secretary Lincoln and other members of the fishing club at Pelee Island, Canada, for May 18. Bass fishing is allowed in Canada waters on and after May 15. The Pelee Fishing Club has elegant accommodations, and is made up of the solid men of the country East and West. Perhaps no club of the kind has so many wealthy men in its organization. They represent in round numbers $40,000,000.

British Men-of-War in American Waters.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: When was the last English war vessel in New York harbor previous to the visit of the Garnet, and why do British ships not call here? E. H. M.

The English war ship Niobe was here about fifteen years ago. We do not remember the exact date. There is a British naval station at Bermuda, and another at Halifax. There is, therefore, no reason why a British man-of-war should visit an American port.

His Head Turned.

From the Paulding Era.

Uncle William Cole, living near Dallas, recently dug him a cyclone pit, which his good wife utilized for putting her soap barrel in. His neighbors tell it on him that the other day a whirlwind passed through his place and raised a considerable dust, which caused him to gather his family together and run with them to the pit. Arriving there he jumped head foremost into it. His little son, who was following, halted and turned to his mother and excitedly exclaimed:

"Ma, pa's into the soap barrel up to his ankles."

She replied, "Oh, well, sonny, if he's in no deeper than that he can get out."

The little fellow replied: "Yes, but his head's turned the wrong way."

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

The last week has seen a revival of spirit and energy among society people, and a good deal of what may be called miscellaneous and irregular gayety has been going on. The most important event was the so-called cotillion dinner on Thursday evening, although in point of fact there was no cotillion danced. It was a beautiful entertainment at the Brunswick Hotel, and was intended as an acknowledgment on the part of fourteen of society's younger sons of the kindnesses and hospitalities that had been extended to them during the winter. Nothing could have been more original and artistic or in better taste than the arrangements of the diamond-shaped table, on which the fairest blossoms were most advantageously disposed and around which so many fair women were gathered that the poet's dream might have been realized at a glance. Nor was it a feast for the eyes and the palate only; the table talk was exceptionally sprightly and good, and as the guests were all judiciously placed, there was an unusual amount of animation and a general feeling of enjoyment.

On Wednesday evening the Orange Dramatic Club had a crowded and brilliant house for their last theatrical representation. The plays were "Weeping Wives" and "The Cape Mail," in which the usual amateur troupe did the fullest justice to their well-earned reputation. Mrs. Teall acted admirably and Mr. Coward, who, in consequence of a withdrawal of one of the actors at the eleventh hour, was obliged to assume two parts, was inimitable in both. Mrs Potter had an ungracious and ungrateful rôle in the pseudo widow of "The Cape Mail," but she won the admiration of the women by her exquisite costumes, and of the men by her grace and charm. The little Orange theatre was gay with spring bonnets and new gowns. Many of the audience were in full dress, and the parties from New York, Newark, and Morristown were innumerable. Mrs. Douglas Robinson, Jr., had a number of friends at her home on the mountain side, who added not a little to the gay assemblage, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Roosevelt. Mrs. Charles Tuckerman, formerly Miss Ruth Appleton, was one of her cousin Mrs. Chalmers Wood's party, while distributed among the audience were Mrs. and Miss Marié, Miss Lena Post, the Misses Otis, Miss Ashmore, Miss Urquhart, Mr. and Miss Turnure, the Misses Wright, Mr. Keasbey of Newark, and many others. The residents of Orange, among whom were all the members of the Essex County Club, turned out in great force, and Mrs. Teall entertained the actors at supper after the performance.

Of dinner parties during the past week there have been but two—one at Mrs. Howard Townsend's and one given by Miss Lucy Work on the anniversary of the famous "Adrienne Lecouvreur" representation and to the ladies who acted with her in that play.

Plate chests are now being consigned to safe deposit companies, and Dresden and Sèvres carefully packed for transportation to Newport, where the next costly banquets of the year will take place. The correct thing now, if the presence of strangers in town or the exigencies of a party to the races make entertaining indispensable, is to give a dinner at Delmonico's or at Jerome Park. New York dining rooms will be silent and lonely for six months at least.

The four hundred and more first cabin passengers who sailed for Liverpool in the Etruria yesterday had each about half a dozen friends come down to see them off. The result was a crowd on the pier and on board of the steamer which was simply abominable. It suggested very forcibly the reflection that the custom of thus testifying respect and affection would be more honored in the breach than in the observance, and that stern measures should be taken to abolish it. Among the departures were those of the Rev. Phillips Brooks, Mr. Anthony Froude, Mr. Hugh D. Auchincloss, Mr. and Mrs. William M. Bliss, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. F. D Carley, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Dinsmore, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dana, Mr. Lauderdale Duncan, Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock, Mr. Center Hitchcock, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Kelly, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Brander Matthews, and Mr. J. C. Pumpelly.

A ladies' club is said to be in process of organization by several prominent society ladies in town. It is proposed that the membership shall not exceed 150, that the entrance fee shall be $25, and the yearly subscription about the same amount. If the project is carried out a suite of rooms will be taken in Fifth avenue with suitable furniture and decorations, and, if the enterprise prospers, a library, reading room, and restaurant will be added. The bylaws and regulations that govern all clubs will be adopted, with such modifications only as may be necessary for ladies. For those who live out of the city, and come to town for visiting and shopping, such an institution would be a quite inestimable boon, but whether women with luxurious homes in New York would care to contribute to its support or to make use of its advantages is extremely doubtful.

The engagement has been announced of Miss Adèle Lesher to Mr. George B. French.

The marriage of Miss Alice Appleton of Boston to Mr. Myers is announced to take place in Lenox at the end of June. Miss Julia Appleton, whose beautiful house in Lenox is just completed, will not, it is said, occupy it this summer. Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts has taken a cottage in the Berkshire Newport, and an early gay season is expected there.

Several well-known families will be thrown into mourning by the sad and sudden deaths of the past week. Mrs. William Barnewell, mother of Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer, and thirty years ago a prominent leader in society, died after a very short illness of pneumonia, and Mrs. N. M. Beckwith's death was so sudden and unlooked for as to be a severe shock to her family. Mrs. Beckwith was a sister of Mr. Paul Forbes of Paris, and a niece of the late Mrs. Charles Augustus Davis, under whose chaperonage she was introduced into society. She was very handsome in her youth, and was a most charming woman.

Private letters from Lady Mandeville to friends in this city give an amusing account of the pangs and fears endured by herself in common with other ladies of the Princess of Wales's suite during the royal progress through Ireland. The Viscountess frankly admits that she was frightened almost to death, and suffered untold misery in anticipation of a Fenian shot or an unexpected visitation of dynamite. "The Prince and Princess were full of pluck," she writes, "for they had a great end in view; but as for our insignificant selves, we could neither eat nor sleep, and scarcely ever trusted ourselves outside the doors unless absolutely compelled to do so. And as for the railway journeys and open carriage expeditions, they were too dreadful for anything."

The career of Gladys Lady Lonsdale, with whose recent marriage the English journals ring, is a commentary upon London society at the present time which we on this side may well lay to heart. Born to an inheritance of rank and beauty, and the daughter of Sir Sidney Herbert, a man who won the love and respect of all who knew him, not only by his statesmanlike qualities, but by the charm of his gentle and courteous manner, Lady Lonsdale should have been a model of all womanly graces and virtues, instead of which she is a bold masculine beauty, good at smoking, driving and most outrageous flirting, and apparently with few or no moral or religious restraints. Although notorious for neglect of her duty to her first most unfortunate husband, she has captured one of the best partis in England, and will doubtless wield a more omnipotent sceptre as future Marchioness of Ripon than she has even as Countess of Lonsdale. Her life and conduct, which have wandered so far astray from the teaching and example that she must have received, are a natural outcome of the corrupt condition of English high life, where faithless wives are to be found in almost every family, and are spoken of with the utmost unconcern. It will be well if what is known as Anglophobia in this country confines itself to the cut of a coat and the serving of a dinner, or even to a little harmless worshipping of titles and grandeur. To copy the morals and manners of these people would be more than ruinous to the maids, wives, and mothers of our model republic.